

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)  
TYPE: Official Product  
DATE: June 04, 2003***

---

TAFB MARINE WEATHER DISCUSSION

**Part 1 - Mission Connection**

**1. Product/Service Description:**

The Marine Weather Discussion (MIM) is an alphanumeric product issued about two hours prior to Offshore Waters Forecast (OFF) and provides one-way coordination for mariners and coastal Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) in the Southern Region. Forecast reasoning and expected warnings on marine conditions such as wind, waves, visibility, and significant weather is discussed. The product is prepared by the Tropical Prediction Center (TPC) and covers the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean Sea, and the southwest north Atlantic from 7N to 31N west of 55W.

**2. Purpose/Intended Use:**

The product is issued routinely twice per day, and updated when necessary, to describe marine analysis and forecast conditions including any event-driven marine and tropical hazards occurring or expected over the area mentioned above for a five day forecast period. The discussion could include highlighting wind speeds and wave heights in relation to model guidance and significant weather. This product is intended to provide information assisting in the protection of life and property, and enhancing the nations economy.

**3. Audience:**

The target audience for this product includes: marine forecasters at coastal WFOs in the Southern Region, ocean going vessels, barge operators, private maritime organizations, recreational mariners, commercial fishing vessels, and military and government agencies.

**4. Presentation Format:**

The product is made available in alphanumeric format.

**5. Feedback Method:**

Continuous feedback is available via an Internet page e-mail link to the program managers in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services. Feedback on this product is obtained at annual NWS Southern Region marine meetings, Focus Group meetings, Boat Shows, and Customer Surveys.

Technical and policy questions, and comments for the MIM may be addressed to:

National Weather Service  
Attn: Brian LaMarre W/OS21  
Marine Program Manager  
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13118  
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3285

or e-mail questions and comments to: [Brian.Lamarre@noaa.gov](mailto:Brian.Lamarre@noaa.gov)

## Part 2 - Technical

### 1. **Format and Science Basis:**

The MIM product is disseminated in alphanumeric format and provides mariners and coastal WFO in the Southern Region forecast reasoning and expected warnings on marine conditions such as wind, waves, visibility, and significant weather out to the day five forecast period. The product describes significant weather elements and hazardous marine and tropical events. The product contains marine and meteorological terminology.

Coordination, by telephone and the Hurricane Hotline, with coastal WFOs in the Southern Region is done by the issuing office to ensure the OFF and the Coastal Waters Forecasts are consistent and compatible.

### 2. **Availability:**

The product is disseminated routinely twice per day, and is updated on an unscheduled basis. The product is made available via various means of dissemination such as: the Internet and the NOAA Weather Wire. Additional information on product dissemination is available at:

<http://weather.gov/om/marine/home.htm>.

The following Internet site is one location to access the MIM product:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/forecast.shtml>.

### 3. **Additional Information:**

A description of Marine and Coastal Services policy, areas of responsibility, abbreviations and definitions, standards and guidelines, and means of product dissemination for the MIM product is described in NWS Instructions 10-301 to 10-304, and in 10-311, which are made available on the Internet at:

[http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation\\_services.htm](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation_services.htm).